



## AMENDMENTS

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### In the Specification

None.

### In the Claims

Please replace the claims with the following clean version of the entire set of pending claims, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(i). Cancel all previous versions of any pending claim.

A marked up version showing amendments to any claims being changed is provided in one or more accompanying pages separate from this amendment in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii). Any claim not accompanied by a marked up version has not been changed relative to the immediate prior version, except that marked up versions are not being supplied for any added claim or canceled claim.

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1. (Amended) An integrated circuit comprising a conductive line, the conductive line not being a gate electrode, received over a semiconductive substrate and a diffusion region within the substrate proximate the line, the diffusion region and substrate forming a junction which is effectively reverse biased to preclude shorting between the conductive line and the substrate through any conductive material extending therebetween for selected magnitudes of current provided through the conductive line.

2. The integrated circuit of claim 1, wherein the conductive material comprises metal.

3. The integrated circuit of claim 1, wherein a portion of the diffusion region is disposed directly under conductive portions of the conductive line.